

Southwest Fisheries Center Administrative Report No. 4H, 1974

January 31, 1974

F14 Center Director, SWFC La Jolla
Attn: David Mackatt
F142 Director, Honolulu Laboratory, SWFC, Honolulu

Contacts with constituents, 1973

The enclosed report summarizes the Honolulu Laboratory's activities as they relate to direct contact with our constituency.

Enclosure

MLG:ey

cc: Godfrey

HL
DO

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER HONOLULU LABORATORY

Contact with Constituents

A. Industry; Commercial Fishermen

1. The pole-and-line fleet at Kewalo Basin, Oahu, on learning of NMFS Honolulu Laboratory's (HL) need for live tuna for experimental purposes, donated 150 live tunas to us. This resulted in a good feeling among the fishermen for having contributed to our research.
2. HL provides continuing timely information on developments in the Japanese tuna fishery by way of translations of news items and articles in Japanese periodicals. Responses indicate that this service is greatly appreciated. This is actually a "by-product" since the translations are primarily for HL's information bank on tuna resources, Pacific and Indian Oceans.
3. HL provided a guided tour of the fish market and introduction to local fish dealers to owner of Gasparilla Fisheries, Placida, Florida. Constituent sent a memo of appreciation to the Laboratory Director.
4. HL provided a written review of the Laboratory history and accomplishments to the new member of Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee from Hawaii.
5. Local and mainland representatives of the fishing industry were given information on request concerning the demersal resources of the Hawaiian Islands. This included help to a local fish broker on product care and use of common names in marketing.
6. As the result of a paper by Struhsaker and Aasted on shrimp trapping, presented to the South Pacific Commission Sixth Technical Meeting on Fisheries in Fiji, several letters of inquiry were received from Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Information was also provided colleagues at Guam who are presently conducting shrimp trapping experiments similar to those run in Hawaii by NMFS.
7. HL provided the late S. McLeod and T. McCarthy, Hawaiian Tuna Packers (Bumble Bee Seafoods, Inc.), with basic information on the state of the South Pacific albacore stock on two different occasions in November 1973.

8. HL arranged with the captain of skipjack fishing sampan Lehua to carry Mr. James Schones (Sea Grant advisor from Oregon State University) aboard as observer of baiting operations. Also arranged for Mr. Schones to familiarize himself with construction details of a "night" net used in night baiting operations.
9. HL arranged with skipjack fishing boat Anela to have Mr. Robert Stone, fishery biologist from Fiji, aboard for 2 days of observing. Introduced Mr. Stone to officials of United Fishing Agency and Hawaiian Tuna Packers.
10. The Director's Office maintains close contact--by correspondence, telephone, and meetings--with various elements of the producing and processing segments of the commercial fishing industry. The Laboratory Director met with Hawaiian Tuna Packers management (S. McLeod and the present manager Jay Puffinburger) on four specific occasions in 1973. Additional contacts occurred as part of other meetings. Topic of principal concern was the baitfish problem faced by the Hawaiian tuna fishery. The baitfish problem is also foremost with the Tuna Boat Owner's Association; on two occasions the Director met with officials of the association. The Laboratory is progressing in its work on transport of the northern anchovy from California to Hawaii.

The Laboratory Director also met four times with Frank Goto, Manager of United Fishing Agency and currently a member of MAFAC. Topics of concern to Mr. Goto included the deactivation of RV Townsend Cromwell, Laboratory budget cuts, and the Hawaiian baitfish problem.

The Laboratory Director instituted a series of baitfish meetings to discuss our activities in moving anchovy from California to Hawaii. One meeting was held in 1973. Progress with this project is transmitted by progress reports (two to date). Participants in the meeting included industry (producers and processors), University of Hawaii, Sea Grant, Hawaii State Fish and Game, and PIDC.

11. An HL staff member identified samples of baitfish sent from Fiji by the FAO fishery representative there. These identifications contributed to the completion of a basic survey of the fisheries there. The survey is preliminary to the possible development of a pole-and-line skipjack fishery in Fiji.

B. Universities, Community Colleges, and the Scientific Community

1. The Laboratory Director participated in four meetings of the Sea Grant Advisory Committee. He met with Dr. Bardach, Director of Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), on five occasions--meetings intended to keep each other informed of activities in their respective research organizations. He attended two meetings of the Advisory Committee for Marine Programs of the Leeward Community College, providing input on current needs in research for technicians.
2. HL supplied Dr. John Miller, HIMB, with baitfish catch and effort data; discussed baiting catch and effort in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu with two of his graduate students.
3. Assisted University of Hawaii graduate student in economics in a feasibility study he was conducting for HL by providing extensive discussion on baitfish. The study resulted in a report "Estimation of demand for live bait to be used in the skipjack fishing industry."
4. Presented a seminar on acoustic tracking of marine animals to a group of students, UH, March 1973. Provided advice and information on acoustic tracking to UH graduate student and Dr. J. Sylvester of Oceanic Institute, September 1973.
5. Contact was maintained with the scientific community with regard to biological specimens and data collected by HL. Scientist who reported this reported 25 letters written and 250 contact hours provided in a general exchange of information and discussion of mutual problems. He also arranged for a series of informal seminars given at HL and open to all interested persons.
6. Staff oceanographer reports attendance at monthly faculty meetings of UH Dept. of Oceanography; also perhaps a half dozen UH requests for our services, all of which were fulfilled. He also reported nine direct personal requests for information, some requiring considerable "digging" to provide, and six letters asking for information ranging from the trivial to the complex. Five of the six requests were satisfied; one was referred to UH.
7. Life Studies--Tuna reports contacts with UH faculty members and various graduate students to advise on research methods in area of fish behavior and physiology.
8. Made arrangements for our May 1974 participation in Makahiki Kai, a Sea Grant-sponsored "educational experience" for elementary and secondary school students.

Also A.2, A.6, and A.8.

C. Recreational Fishing Interests

1. HL participated in the 15th Annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT), as staff members organized and conducted a 1-day billfish workshop. HL scientists also collected routine catch and effort data and analyzed stomach contents of billfishes landed during the tournament. The Laboratory Director met several times with Mr. Peter Fithian, one of the principal spokesmen for the billfishermen in Hawaii.
2. XBT recorders were installed on two charter boats in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. The data gathered will contribute to HL's fledgling Recreational Fisheries study. The result of the installation was an opening up of two-way rapport and a feeling of mutual benefit.
3. HL staff member attended a public meeting of the Board of Governors of HIBT, where he met some of the people more involved in recreational fishing and explained to them our study plans. He also contacted--in person--11 of the 25 charter boat skippers fishing out of Kailua-Kona, explaining our goals and soliciting participation in helping us collect data. He met with leaders of the Kona Mauka Trollers, the largest sport fishing club on the island of Hawaii, to open lines of communication.

D. Hawaii State Government

1. As a member of a committee to update "Hawaii and the Sea, 1969," the Laboratory Director participated in about 12 meetings of the committee of specialists appointed to the task.
2. As a member of the Advisory Subcommittee of Invertebrates and Aquatic Biota, the Laboratory Director participated in one meeting of the group during 1973. During the year he provided advice to the State on requests to import exotic animals.

E. Pacific Islands Development Commission

1. Dr. F. Hester attended the annual meeting of PIDC held in American Samoa in February. On several other occasions meetings were held with A. Gerakas, Executive Secretary, PIDC, to discuss NMFS activities of interest to them.

F. General

1. Two HL scientists reported participation as judges in the science fairs held at local intermediate and high schools in connection with the 16th Annual Science and Engineering Fair.
2. A head count of visitors to the Honolulu Laboratory in 1973, primarily those received in the Director's Office, totaled 88. These visitors represent all aspects of constituency. They come for the most part to discuss the work of our Laboratory, often in relation to their own work, and many are provided with our reports and publications as their needs require.

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